

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows:

- 1 1. (currently amended) An illuminated exit device comprising:
 - 2 a door latch mechanism;
 - 3 a base for attachment to a surface of a door;
 - 4 an actuator movably mounted relative to the base and connected to operate the
 - 5 latch mechanism when pressure is applied to the actuator;
 - 6 a planar electroluminescent illuminator including electrical wiring extending
 - 7 through the exit device for connection to a source of electrical power, the
 - 8 electroluminescent illuminator comprising a planar source of illumination
 - 9 providing illumination from each point in a planar area corresponding to the
 - 10 electroluminescent illuminator and the electroluminescent illuminator
 - 11 producing the illumination by electroluminescence of an electrically excited
 - 12 electroluminescent material extending over the planar area corresponding to
 - 13 the electroluminescent illuminator;
 - 14 a planar sign including opaque portions for blocking illumination from the
 - 15 electroluminescent illuminator, the sign being mounted in front of the
 - 16 electroluminescent illuminator; and
 - 17 a transparent protective cover mounted in front of the sign, the illuminator, sign
 - 18 and covering plate forming a sign assembly visibly mounted on the exit
 - 19 device.

1 2. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 actuator comprises an elongated push bar.

1 3. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 1 wherein the sign
2 assembly is mounted on the actuator and pressure applied to the sign assembly will
3 operate the exit device.

1 4. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 1 further including
2 a touchpad mounted on the actuator, and wherein the sign assembly is mounted on
3 the touchpad.

1 5. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 4 wherein the
2 touchpad includes a surface cavity in a surface thereof and the sign assembly is
3 mounted in the surface cavity with the transparent protective cover positioned flush
4 with the surface of the touchpad.

1 6. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 4 wherein the
2 touchpad is formed of an electrically insulating material providing an electrically
3 insulating barrier between the electroluminescent illuminator and other parts of the
4 exit device.

1 7. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 6 wherein the
2 touchpad is formed of plastic.

1 8. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 6 wherein the
2 electroluminescent illuminator is encased in a transparent plastic comprising an
3 additional electrical insulator to provide double electrical insulation between the
4 electroluminescent illuminator and other parts of the exit device.

1 9. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 planar sign comprises an opaque film adhesively attached to the transparent
3 protective cover.

1 10. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 9 wherein the
2 planar sign comprises an opaque paint.

1 11. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 1 wherein the sign
2 includes letters forming the word "EXIT" and/or other verbage in English or other
3 language thereon.

1 12. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 electroluminescent illuminator is encased in a transparent plastic comprising an
3 electrical insulator.

1 13. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 1 further including
2 a touchpad mounted on the actuator, and wherein:
3 the touchpad includes a surface cavity in a surface thereof and the surface cavity
4 includes a plurality of openings;

5 the transparent cover includes a plurality of tabs; and
6 the sign assembly is held in the surface cavity by engagement between the tabs
7 of the cover and the openings in the surface cavity.

1 14. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 1 further including
2 an inverter for supplying power to the electroluminescent illuminator.

1 15. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 14 wherein the
2 inverter operates to provide a high voltage AC power to the electroluminescent
3 illuminator from a low voltage input to the inverter, the low voltage not presenting
4 a shock hazard.

1 16. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 14 wherein the
2 inverter provides high voltage AC power to the electroluminescent illuminator from
3 a low voltage which is suitable for driving electromechanical locks and hardware.

1 17. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 14 wherein the
2 inverter provides high voltage AC power to the electroluminescent illuminator from
3 a 24 volts AC or DC power input to the inverter.

1 18. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 14 wherein the
2 inverter is mounted in the base.

1 19. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 1 wherein:

2 the base includes an opening facing towards the surface of the door on which
3 the base is to be attached, and
4 the electrical wiring is hidden from view within the exit device and extends
5 from the electroluminescent illuminator to the opening in the base whereby
6 the electroluminescent illuminator may be electrically connected to hidden
7 power wiring in the door extending from an electrical hinge to an opening in
8 the door surface, the opening in the base being located opposite the opening
9 in the door surface to permit connection between the power wiring and the
10 internal wiring.

1 20. (original) The illuminated exit device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 transparent cover is removable without removal of the exit device from the door to
3 permit replacement or repair of the electroluminescent illuminator.